

REMARKS

The present amendment is prepared in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is shown above showing the status of each claim. For current amendments, inserted material is underlined and deleted material has a line therethrough.

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

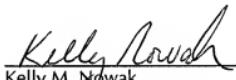
Applicants note and appreciate the withdrawal of the claims under 35 USC 102 in the previous Office Action (Paper No. 20071208).

In the foregoing Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. However, the Examiner has indicated that claim 17, and claims 18-30 dependent thereon, would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 17 to clarify that formula (i) wherein $(n+1)$ moles of the compound of formula (9) are reacted with n moles of H_2S , the following linear polymer results $CH_2=C(R^7)-[W'-CH(R^7)-CH_2-S-CH_2-CH(R^7)]_n-W'-C(R^7)=CH_2$ (9'). Applicant has also clarified and defined that n is an integer greater than or equal to 1. Applicants point out that support for the definition of n can be found in the specification at page 9, lines 5-8 (also paragraph [0043]).

It is respectfully submitted that the application has been brought into a condition where an allowance of the case is proper. Reconsideration of claims 17-30, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned to clarify any issue and/or to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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